

ARLINGTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINTUES

February 25th, 2020

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:04 pm for its meeting in the Town Hall Annex, First Floor Conference Room on Tuesday, February 25, 2020.

Commission Members: Leslie Mayer, Shirley Canniff, Jen Rothenberg, Phil Lasker and Sarah Carrier were all in attendance. Interim Director of Recreation Robert Jefferson was also present.

Members of the Public: Phil Tedesco, Leah Broder, and Ray Dunetz were also present.

Open Forum (Public Comment) – N/A

As a courtesy, Ms. Rothenberg asked that Ray Dunetz go first.

Correspondence

- a. Special Event Request – American Cancer Society would like to run their “Bark for Life” at Menotomy Rocks Park. Commission Members agreed that the best location for this was still around Reservoir Beach.
- b. Busking/street performance tabled until next meeting.

Discussion Topics

- a. Turf Field @ Poets – Mr. Lasker met with representatives from Belmont Hill and Arlington Catholic. The Archdiocese is only interested in a long term lease, not selling. If they can come to an agreement, it will be all about use time. Belmont Hill – early afternoon, Arlington Catholic – midafternoon, Arlington Recreation late afternoon and early evening. If Arlington contributes, it opens us to public bid laws. Mr. Lasker suggested that this would work but ideally, a private agreement would be more cost beneficial.
- b. Tree Limb Trimming – The Tree Warden would like a permission letter to take the needed steps at parks without individual approval. PRC would like to be notified if tree needs to be removed. Mr. Jefferson will include the appropriate language in the permission letter.
- c. Spy Pond Fence – Mr. Jefferson located the purchase order for fence and is ready to move forward, with the understanding that fence must not damage field.
- d. Park Beautification Fund – Small amount available - \$1,398. Most money comes in this fund through picnic table reservations.

Current Projects

- a. Presentation by Mr. Dunetz included information on swings. We must have two accessible swings and can't do mixed uses in the same one bay. He removed the “steppers” because they were redundant. Mr. Dunetz will move the picnic table locations so they are near the play area. Mr. Dunetz will include placeholders for the sandbox, benches with backs and bike racks. Ms. Rothenberg will reach out to Juliette Abbot regarding raised sandboxes. Mr. Dunetz will keep the shade structure on age 2-5 playground, but will remove on the other structure. He passed around an alternative cost sheet. Ms. Rothenberg would like Mr. Dunetz to confirm that the structures for ages 2-5 includes house/store panel. The next steps include the budget with the slide removed. Mr. Jefferson requested a list of equipment/parts to give to Jim Feeney for the bid. Mr. Jefferson mentioned that the Recreation Department has an extra bench under the rink stands. Smaller sub-committee group will put together prioritization of these alternates. Mr. Lasker suggested taking group trees (38) off of the alternates list and instead, having a cost per unit price. This would be helpful for picnic tables, bike racks, trash cans, etc.
- b. Playground Evaluation Study - Mr. Jefferson asked that Mr. Warren and Mr. Rikeman take care of these repairs which they could do easily.

- c. Reservoir Phase I and Phase 2 – Mr. Jefferson reported that we are starting work again to finish Phase 1, as well as that Jim Feeney had sent Phase 2 out to bid. Proposals are due 3/12/2020.
- d. Rink ADA Upgrades – Mr. Jefferson reported that (3) bids were submitted; however (2) bids were submitted incorrectly. Lowest bid received was from Kneeland Construction. Ms. Rothenberg asked for alternate pricing for locker room showers and automatic doors.
- e. Wellington Phase 3 – No updates.
- f. Spy Pond – No updates.

Approval of Minutes – February 11th, 2020

Ms. Rothenberg motioned the approval of minutes with edits. Mr. Lasker seconded it.

Staffing Updates

Ms. Canniff reported that (2) applicants for Recreation Supervisor position had not heard from HR. Mr. Jefferson stated that he would look into it.

Comments and Items for Future Meetings

- a. Ms. Rothenberg would like a person interested in mountain biking program to present at a Commission meeting. Ms. Mayer stated that the Friends of Menotomy Rocks group should be notified of this meeting. Ms. Carrier suggested that Crusher Lot may be a better alternative.
- b. Ms. Rothenberg said she was approached by neighbor that requested lining for pickleball courts. PRC asked that a formal request be submitted.
- c. Ms. Canniff discussed taking down the fence at Poets. Mr. Jefferson will look into removing fence, however Mr. Lasker said the real problem was the asphalt.

Ms. Canniff motioned to adjourn at 9:24 pm. Mr. Lasker seconded motion.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Kirchner.